



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians
Legislative Branch of Tribal Government

Band Assembly Weekly Update: Week of January 31-February 4, 2022

Monday, January 31, 2022: Legislative held a work session for the Band Assembly Members, and Legislative Staff.

Work Session Agenda: Workshop: Budget Review – Mel Towle
Biennium budget discussed with questions and comments.

Tuesday, February 1, 2022: Legislative held a work session for the Band Assembly Members, and Legislative Staff.

Work Session Agenda: Workshop: Budget Review – Mel Towle
Biennium budget was not discussed during this work session, instead there was discussion on various other discussion items and work session schedule.

Legislative hosted a Pre-Band Assembly meeting to discuss the agenda items. **Approval of Minutes:** January 26, 2022 and January 28, 2022. **Reports and Presentations:** Joseph Nayquonabe Re: ARPA Funds Request for Red Willow Estates Project. **Unfinished Business:** Band Assembly Bill 20-01-22-22 (D3): Band's Biennium Budget and Foster Care License: D3 NEW FFH1930005.

New Business: None. **Other:** None. There was discussion, comments and questions on each item. Discussed various items. Work Session schedule. Master Projects List review. Representatives lastly held open discussion of their legislative agendas, ideas and requests.

Wednesday, February 2, 2022: Band Assembly occurred in Band Assembly Chambers and through conference call and zoom.

- **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order.
- **Roll Call:** Roll call was completed all Representatives present.
District I Representative, Virgil Wind
District II Representative, Marvin Bruneau
District III Representative, Wallace St. John Sr.
- **Approval of Agenda:** Agenda was approved.
- **Approval of Minutes:**
 - a) **Band Assembly Record:** January 26, 2022. Record was approved.
 - b) **Band Assembly Record:** January 28, 2022. Record was approved.
- **Reports and Presentations:**
 - a) 10:15 a.m. Joseph Nayquonabe, Commissioner of Corporate Affairs

Re: ARPA Request for Red Willow Estates Project. Presentation was completed by Commissioner of Corporate Affairs with overview of project scope with discussion, questions, and comments.

- **Unfinished Business:**

a) **Band Assembly Bill 20-01-22-22:** A Bill of Appropriation for Governmental Operations of the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches; Circle of Health; Economic Development; Department of Athletic Regulation; Supplemental Income Program for Elders; Tribal Employment Rights Office; and Band Member Legal Services of the Mille Lacs Band Tribal Government for fiscal years ending September 30, 2022, and September 30, 2023. This bill has been drafted based on formal documents submitted by the Office of Management and Budget and the Commissioner of Administration. **Tabled 1/19/2022**

Sponsor: District III Representative. Bill was taken from the table and denied.

b) **Foster Care License:** District III: New: FFH1930005 **Tabled 1/26/2022.** License was taken from the table and denied.

- **New Business: None.**

- **Other: None.**

- **Messages from the Chief Executive-** Not present.

- **Messages from the Representatives-District I Representative-** First I want to touch on the budget denial you know we have been working very hard to try to come to some consensus with the Executive Branch as in some shifts and some focuses within that budget you know working through the process working through the adherence to the budget has been of the utmost concern coming from the District I Office. Lots of meetings lots of comments pushing for certain areas within the district to be focused on so hopefully we can come to terms. I would also like to add that with the continuing budget ordinance Band Government and Band Business still goes on right? You're still able to operate, you're still able to operate elder services, you're still able to operate, so this word out there that we can't operate and we're not going to provide services is not true. Next on my list here just a statement to Band Membership out there, Elected Officials are here for service to Band Members, right? That's our first and foremost duty, that's what we swear an oath to and sometimes decisions are made that might hinder those services to Band Members and the focus from at least the District I Office will always be that we focus on the services that we can provide for our Band Membership I don't believe it's on us to rule and not lead. Reminder for the District I community anyone that's willing to come tomorrow there's a fundraiser pulled together by a District I Member that has a number of vendors coming tomorrow, it was originally slated to happen at the old District I Center again there's a number of vendors coming in with a lot of Native American crafts and art, that event will happen tomorrow from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. it has been moved to the New District I Community Center 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. tomorrow and I believe Dawn day will also be there in attendance with lunch on sale as well as a draw so please attend that if you have any questions reach out to us and we will be sure to clarify. That's all I got. **District II Representative-** I don't have much to report I just want to let people be aware, be taken care of, be safe, there's a lot of sickness and illness going on, take care of yourselves. Also one thing Band Business

they're still looking for Election Board members, so anyone that has any interest at all, they're still taking letters of interest until Friday, so please do it's an important job and one that shouldn't be taken lightly. Miigwech. **District III Representative-** As most of you are aware we're having a group of funerals out here, there's one today, then one Friday and probably be another one Sunday as I walked in the door today I was told of another passing of a Band Elder out here. Friday is my nephew's passed away and a relative of mine today, so we're going to be open as much as we can for you to help you with some of your specific needs. So bear with us if sometimes you call the phones don't always get answered because we're busy with the wakes and funerals getting things set up, getting our relatives on their journey back home. District III Community Meeting will be February 16th I haven't yet acquired any speakers that would like to speak. So I'd like your help with some topic or department that you would like to come talk on. Please give me a call shoot me a text or email and we will get those people on the agenda. Really don't have much more than that. Christmas pictures taken by Chad Germann they are at the Meshakwaad we are picking them up today and bringing them out here, so if you are up in the Hinckley area rush up there and get them cause once we grab them and bring them out here then you have to come here and get them. Other than that Mi'iw be safe, be kind.

- **Messages from the Secretary-Treasurer-** Not present.

Joint Session of the Band Assembly occurred in Band Assembly Chambers and through conference call and zoom.

- **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order.
- **Roll Call:** Roll call was completed all Elected Officials present.
Chief Executive, Melanie Benjamin
Secretary-Treasurer, Sheldon Boyd
District I Representative, Virgil Wind
District II Representative, Marvin Bruneau
District III Representative, Wallace St. John Sr.
- **Approval of Agenda:** Agenda was approved.
- **Minutes:**
 - a) **Joint Session Record:** January 19, 2022. Record was approved.
- **Unfinished Business:**
 - a) **Joint Session of the Band Assembly Resolution 19-04-16-21:** A Resolution Adopting Rules of Procedure for the Joint Session of the Band Assembly **Tabled 9/30/2021**
- **New Business:**
 - a) **Joint Session of the Band Assembly Resolution 20-01-07-22:** A Resolution Appointing an Election Court of Appeals Judge. Resolution was read, amended and approved.

b) **Joint Session of the Band Assembly Resolution 20-01-08-22:** A Resolution Appointing an Election Contest Judge and Alternate Election Contest Judge for the 2022 Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Election on the Mille Lacs Reservation. Resolution was amended and approved with a waiver of the formal reading.

- **Other:** None.

Thursday, February 3, 2022:

Legislative held a work session for the Band Assembly Members, and Legislative Staff.

Work Session Agenda: Workshop: Budget Review – Mel Towle

Biennium budget was not discussed during this work session, instead there was discussion on various other discussion items and Legal Counsel presented a review of the Healing-to-Wellness red line draft version definitions and comments with acceptance or denial of revisions.